

1. (Amended) A connector for use in a plasma arc apparatus comprising:

a housing defining a hollow internal channel, the hollow internal channel comprising a shoulder;

at least one locking finger disposed within the hollow internal channel and disposed distally from the shoulder; and

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a pin comprising:

a first collar with a shoulder disposed thereon; and

Separate
a second collar disposed proximally from the first collar,

wherein the locking finger engages pin shoulder to prevent movement of the pin in a proximal direction and the housing shoulder engages the second collar of the pin to prevent movement of the pin in a distal direction without a member disposed between the locking finger and the housing.

10. (Amended) A connector for use in a plasma arc apparatus comprising:

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a plug housing defining a hollow internal channel with a first portion and a second portion;

P2
a plurality of locking fingers disposed within the hollow internal channel between the first portion and the second portion; and

a negative lead gas carrying pin comprising a first collar with a shoulder disposed thereon, and a second collar disposed proximally from the first collar,

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wherein the locking fingers engage the shoulder to prevent movement of the negative lead gas carrying pin in a proximal direction, and the housing engages the second collar to prevent movement of the negative lead gas carrying pin in a distal direction.

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17. (Amended) A connector comprising:
a housing defining a hollow internal channel, the hollow internal channel comprising a first portion, a second portion, and a shoulder;
at least one locking finger disposed within the hollow internal channel and disposed distally from the shoulder;
a pin defining a first collar with a shoulder disposed thereon; and
a second collar disposed proximally from the first collar,
wherein the second collar slidably blocks access to the locking finger through the first portion of the hollow internal channel, the pin is recessed within the second portion of the hollow internal channel, the locking finger engages the pin shoulder to prevent movement of the pin in a proximal direction, and the housing shoulder engages the second collar to prevent movement of the pin in a distal direction.

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21. (Amended) A connector for use between a power supply and a torch lead in a plasma arc apparatus, the connector comprising:
a plug housing defining a hollow internal channel;
a plurality of locking fingers integrally formed with the plug housing and disposed within the hollow internal channel; and

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~~a negative lead gas carrying pin defining a first collar with a shoulder disposed thereon, and a second collar disposed distally from the first collar;~~

HB
~~wherein the locking fingers engage the shoulder to prevent movement of the negative lead gas carrying pin in a proximal direction and the plug housing engages the second collar to prevent movement of the negative lead gas carrying pin in a distal direction.~~

HB
27. (Amended) A housing for use in connecting a pin in a plasma arc apparatus comprising:

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a hollow internal channel comprising a shoulder; and
at least one locking finger disposed within the hollow internal channel and disposed distally from the shoulder,

HB
wherein the locking finger engages the pin to prevent movement of the pin in a proximal direction, and the shoulder engages the pin to prevent movement of the pin in a distal direction.

HB
32. (Amended) A pin for use in a plasma arc apparatus comprising:

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a first collar comprising a shoulder; and
a second collar disposed proximally from the first collar,
wherein the shoulder is engaged by a locking finger disposed within a housing to prevent movement of the pin in a proximal direction, and the second collar is engaged by a ¹¹²shoulder disposed within the housing to prevent movement of the pin in a distal direction.

35. (Amended) In a connector for making a connection in a plasma arc apparatus to provide fluid and electric power, the connector having a housing mounting a pin for conducting fluid and electric power, the improvement comprising:

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a tamper resistant connection between the housing and the pin comprising:
a first collar;
a second collar disposed proximally from the first collar; and
a hollow internal channel within the housing to receive the pin, the hollow internal channel comprising a plurality of locking fingers and a shoulder disposed proximally from the locking fingers, wherein the locking fingers engage the first collar to secure the pin in a proximal direction and the housing shoulder engages the second collar to secure the pin in a distal direction.

39. (New) A connector for use in a plasma arc apparatus comprising:
a housing defining a hollow internal channel, the hollow internal channel comprising a shoulder;
at least one locking finger disposed within the hollow internal channel and spaced distally from the shoulder; and
a pin comprising:
a first collar; and
a second collar disposed proximally from the first collar,

wherein the locking finger engages the first collar to secure the pin in a proximal direction and the shoulder engages the second collar to secure the pin in a distal direction.

40. (New) A connector for use in a plasma arc apparatus comprising:
a housing defining a hollow internal channel;
at least one locking finger disposed within the hollow internal channel; and
a pin disposed within the housing and comprising:
a first collar with a shoulder disposed thereon; and
a second collar disposed proximally from the first collar,
wherein the locking finger engages the shoulder and the second collar engages the housing such that the pin cannot be removed without destruction of the connector.

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41. (New) A connector for use in a plasma arc apparatus comprising:
a housing defining a hollow internal channel;
at least one locking finger disposed within the hollow internal channel, the locking finger sloping inwardly and distally; and
a pin comprising:
a first collar; and
a second collar disposed proximally from the first collar,
wherein the locking finger engages the first collar to secure the pin in a proximal direction and the second collar engages the hollow internal channel to secure the pin in a distal direction.